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SUNDAY
MAY 16, 1954

Arrived New York early in the morning. Total time in the air from Paris had been about 14-1/2 hours. Have been reading wonderful book of Monnier on Venice in the 18th Century.

My smallpox vaccination certificate being too old, I was revaccinated before getting off from Idlewild on an 8:30 plane to Washington.

The Metropolitan Club was booked up, so I went to 1718 H Street, of which Bobby Cutler was the only present occupant.

Lunched with Pauline Davis. She has been [redacted] ill and cannot use one hand at all -- the other only with difficulty. Ethel Fowler was there. She motored me to 1411 34th Street. I scanned the outside of the house. It looks dreary -- one shutter and one screen had drc ed off. Other shutters were flapping crazily.

Dined tonight at Foster's. Vice-President Nixon, Allen Dulles, Livy Merchant, Doug MacArthur, Bob Bowie, Dick Bissell, Dean Rusk, Bob Murphy, and Bob Cutler were there. We had a long and interesting review of the current international situation. Some drastic policies were suggested for dealing with the Indo-China affair. The British came in for considerable criticism, the French for scorn because of their political weakness and instability.

Cutler took me home. He had ridden 23 miles today on a bicycle -- his favorite exercise.

I feel worried -- our Government is on the verge of momentous decisions.

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